## **Purpose of Human Rights Committee**

People with mental retardation and other related disabilities are entitled to the same rights available to all other citizens. When a person is unable to exercise his or her rights as a citizen, society is obligated to intervene, to safeguard these rights and to act humanely and conscientiously on that person's behalf.

South Carolina Code of Law (44-26-70) relating to the rights of people receiving services from DDSN requires that each DDSN Regional Center and local DSN Board establish a Human Rights Committee.

The purpose of the manual is to provide Human Rights Committees with a solid philosophy on which to base their work as well as functional guidelines to follow to insure that service users are afforded Fundamental Fairness and Due Process when programs are purposed which may limit a person's rights and everyday freedoms.

## Our Greatest Task

It is our greatest task to support the people we serve to lead complete and whole lives and to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens to the fullest.